



New facility sets sail

Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club + Sailability Sunshine Coast

Upgrades completed April 2011 @ Mooloolaba Marina

MOOLOOLABA, 17 APRIL: Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC) and Sailability have completed major upgrades to their shared facility. Operating out of the Mooloolaba Marina, both organisations will see immediate benefits from the renovations that cost in excess of \$12,000.

Ron Grabbe, Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club president, said: "The facility upgrades were only possible through generous support from local businesses, club fundraising and the many hours put in by volunteers. It is gratifying to see that both Sailability and Mooloolaba Outrigger Club members now have a defined area where they can safely relax and take advantage of the new facilities."

Upgrades include improved drainage, newly turfed and landscaped grounds, better craft storage and an improved car park and driveway for the commercial operators at the Marina, who access their vessels next to the Sailability and MOCC area.

John Cook, president of Sailability Sunshine Coast said: "Our members are extremely excited about having the new facility. It will enable our volunteers to rig the craft on the manicured turfed area in preparation for the day's activities and also allow some of the disabled and wheelchair-bound participants to manoeuvre safely around the complex."

Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club and Sailability have jointly invested over \$60,000 in the last ten years, constructing storage facilities for craft and safety equipment.

MOCC president Ron Grabbe said: "It was recognised by MOCC many years ago that Sailability, despite its incredible volunteer network, lacked the facilities it needed to safely house their craft and equipment. Their work with people who are disabled or disadvantaged is phenomenal, and the sailing experiences they provide are invaluable. When the outrigger club came to this site, we included Sailability in our building and development program and built the storage facility where Sailability is housed to this day. We are extremely pleased to continue to partner with Sailability and to help ensure they are able to continue the great work they do in the community."

The improvements don't stop there. There are plans in the works to further develop the site to ensure the safety of all users.

Ron Grabbe said: "The next project for both groups is to prioritise the upgrade of the access ramp into the water. We will be putting a project team together to see how we can best raise the necessary funds and gain approval to have

Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club

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this built as soon as possible. The current ramp, which is essentially made of sand and gravel, requires regular maintenance to enable safe entry of craft, with the cost of maintenance born by our members. An all-weather concrete ramp would eliminate the constant maintenance required due to erosion and ensure safe access at all times."

Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club was founded in 1990, with a borrowed canoe on the banks of the Mooloolah River. Since then, the club has grown to become the leading outrigger canoe club in Australia. With state, national and international success, the club has an impressive track record. In 2011, it is looking to take out its 17th championship in the gruelling 66km Molokai to Oahu race in Hawaii.

Sailability operates in many countries around the globe. Sailability Sunshine Coast, through the efforts of its tireless volunteers, enriches many lives through the gift of sailing. Sessions run most Fridays from the Sailability shed at the Mooloolaba Marina, with the keen sailors navigating the beautiful Mooloolah River.

WHAT: Photo Opportunity - Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club & Sailability facility upgrade

WHEN: Thursday, 21 April 2011 @ 4.30pm

WHERE: Mooloolaba Marina, Parkyn Parade (follow the gravel driveway to the right of the Marina Office; Mooloolaba OCC and Sailability are on the far side of the Marina office and amenities complex)

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: Ron Grabbe, Mooloolaba OCC president + John Cooke, Sailability Sunshine Coast president.

VISION OPPORTUNITIES: Ron Grabbe and John Cooke at the upgraded Sailability and Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club facilities.

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